



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
July 23, 2019 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman  
Chuck Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Secretary  
Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer  
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County  
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County  
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

**Board Members Absent:**

Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:**

Deanna Fehrer- District Manager  
Emily Gibbs – Residential Program Specialist  
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins – DCR CDC  
DCR SWCD interns: Alexa Maione & Marie Abowd

**Guests Present:**

Sarah Eck – Nottoway Resident  
Allison Crews – Amelia Resident

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at the Prince Edward Natural Resources and Agriculture Building in Farmville on Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, partners, and guests and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present. Additions to the agenda include review/approval of finance committee minutes.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the June 20, 2019 minutes as presented.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the June 2019 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

### **CONSERVATION REPORT**

Mr. Wootton gave an overview of the PY20 Virginia Agriculture Cost Share Program (VACS) and the following significant changes (details can be found in the VACS manual located in the SWCD office or online at <http://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/agbmptoc.htm>):

- Participant Caps have been increased to \$100,000.
- Several practices have practice caps.
- The approval/authorization of year end BMP carryovers has been changed.
- Practice Changes:
  - SL6 & WP2 are split into several new practices (SL6N, SL6W, WP2N, WP2W) that provide more options for buffer width and lifespan of practice. Cost share rates reflect the options.
  - SL7 – Extension of watering system in upland fields (no longer a CREP only practice).
  - SL10 – Grazing Land Management (similar to previous SL9, but with more options).
  - CCI-SL6N & CCI-SL6W – New practice for previously installed exclusion fence that was not part of any cost share programs, or for cost shared practices out of lifespan. This practice includes a base rate for feet of stream excluded and rates for watering systems installed. The lifespan of this practice is 5 years.
  - CCI-SE – Rate change.
  - FR1 & FR3 – Reflects change to DOF practice standard and rates/lifespan changes.
  - Nutrient Management Practices – language clarifications.
  - NM6 – New practice for manure injection.
  - SL1 – Cost share rate changes and requirement of a nutrient management plan for the year of establishment.
  - SL8B & SL8H – Kill dates extended and seeding rates based on germination rate.
  - WP4, WP4B, WQ12 – language clarifications.
  - CREP – Increase of state portion of cost share (35%).
  - DEQ BMP Loan Program – reinstated program that provides 0% interest loan for installation of BMP practices and purchase of some conservation equipment.

### **VACS Application Approvals**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application:**

#### **Nottoway**

**Charles Wootton**

**05-20-0003**

**(OCB VACS)**

**CCI-SL-6W- Stream Exclusion With Wide Buffer Maintenance Practice(6,870')  
Estimated Incentive \$ 10,087.50**

### **VACS Application Cancellation**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following VACS cancellation:**

**Prince Edward**  
**Boot Hill Dairy**  
**05-18-0033**  
**(CB VACS)**

**WP-4B- Loafing Lot Management**  
**Estimated Incentive \$ 4,049.30**  
**Estimated Tax Credit \$17,500.00**

**\*In conjunction with an EQIP Contract that was canceled.**

**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Application Approvals**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling \$16,705.00:**

**Flat Creek, et al.**

**Freeman Randolph**  
**(05-20-0001)**

Amelia County

**RB-4 Conventional Onsite Sewage System Installation/Replacement**

Estimated Cost \$ 2,600.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,300.00 (50% cost-share rate)

\*Emergency pre-approval due to sewage surfacing onto the ground.\*

**Lovelean Howard**  
**(05-20-0004)**

Nottoway County

**RB-4 Conventional Onsite Sewage System Installation/Replacement**

Estimated Cost \$ 7,800.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,630.00 (85% cost-share rate)

**Ethel Hobbs**  
**(05-20-0005)**

Nottoway County

**RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out**

Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 \*\*

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 175.00 (50% cost-share rate)

**Spring Creek, et al.**

**John Meacom**  
**(05-20-0002)**

Prince Edward County

**RB-5 Alternative Onsite Sewage System Installation**

Estimated Cost \$ 17,200.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,600.00 (50% cost-share rate)

**\*\*New cost share rates for RB1 determined by DEQ effective 7/1/19**

To help with marketing efforts of the increase in VACS funding, Ms. Fehrer requested that Board members notify staff of upcoming agriculture events, meetings and other venues where district staff could have an exhibit, table or a few minutes on the agenda to advertise the VACS program. A handout of past marketing venues was distributed and Board members were asked to submit additional marketing ideas.

**FINANCE**

**On a motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the June 23, 2019 Finance Committee minutes as presented.**

**PLANNING** (no report)

**WATERSHED**

Mr. Arnason reported the summer mowing of all dams has been completed as well as the removal of beaver related debris and beavers at Bush #2 & Bush #5 dams. The state wide engineering RFP will be posted by August 1, 2019.

**LEGISLATIVE** (no report)

**PERSONNEL**

Ms. Fehrer reported Kelly Atkinson, the new Education Coordinator, began work in July and will be representing the District at several upcoming education events, including the July 27 Pollinator Festival that is being held at Saylor’s Creek State Park. Ms. Totten, PSWCD VACS contractor, has begun working on the new VACS program brochure and assisting with data entry.

**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Mr. Powers reminded everyone of some upcoming education events including Pollinator Festival, Farm Safety Day, and Farm and Family Day.

Ms. Gibbs served as a counselor at the week- long Youth Conservation Camp and provided a slide show of various activities the campers enjoyed. Thank you letters from the two campers sponsored by Piedmont were shared with everyone. Piedmont sponsored camper Katie Stang was selected as “Camper of the Week” and is interested in furthering her conservation education through the Virginia Conservation Leadership Institute program, which is sponsored by the VASWCD and involves students in conservation projects that the students initiate.

**DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT** *(See attached report)*

**PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:**

Department of Conservation and Recreation: *(See attached report)*

Ms. Collins reported the VACS update webinars have been rescheduled to August 6 and August 7; Reserve Fund Balance report is due at the August board meeting.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton provided flyers (attached) advertising several upcoming events including: Farm Safety Day on July 26, which will be held at SPAREC in Blackstone; Family Forestland Short-Course and VT Hemp Day. The District will have an exhibit. More information may be found on the VCE website. Ms. Norton also mentioned there are spots still available for the Central Virginia Pasture, Crops and Livestock grant program.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

Conservation Report; June 20 Finance Committee minutes; DCR CDC Report; Staff report; VCE flyers.

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Arnason, Director / Secretary